



CITY COUNCIL
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
530 SOUTH KING STREET, ROOM 202
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-3065
TELEPHONE: (808) 768-5010 • FAX: (808) 768-5011

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COUNCIL VOTES ON MEASURE TO EXPEDITE AND IMPROVE CONSTRUCTION INSPECTIONS

The Honolulu City Council is expected to vote on Bill 24 to amend a city ordinance enacted in 1990 and update a section, which will expedite the construction of certain buildings and other structures by establishing a process, called special assignment inspections.

This will allow some construction activity to begin while building permit applications are still being reviewed if the building permit applicant submits to the building official a request for a special assignment inspection and all of the following requirements are satisfied with respect to the project for which the building permit is sought:

The landowner and the building permit holder assume all responsibility in the event that the construction does not comply with applicable codes. In addition, the special assignment inspection fee will increase to \$1,000 from \$200.

Councilmember Ann Kobayashi, while she was interim council chair, introduced Bill 24 at the request of the city's Department of Planning and Permitting.

"The administration and labor groups agree this is a win-win for all involved," said Council Chair Emeritus Ron Menor, who leads the Zoning, Planning and Housing Committee, which heard the measure. "This will help move projects along in a more efficient manner and the increased fees will add to the city's revenue stream."

Bill 24 is scheduled to go before the full Council for its Third Reading on September 4, 2019 at Honolulu Hale. It passed Second Reading and public hearing on August 7th then went back to committee on August 22nd. All legislation is subject to change pending the final vote.

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Media Contact:

Louise Kim McCoy
Communications Director
Honolulu City Council
(808) 768-5078

